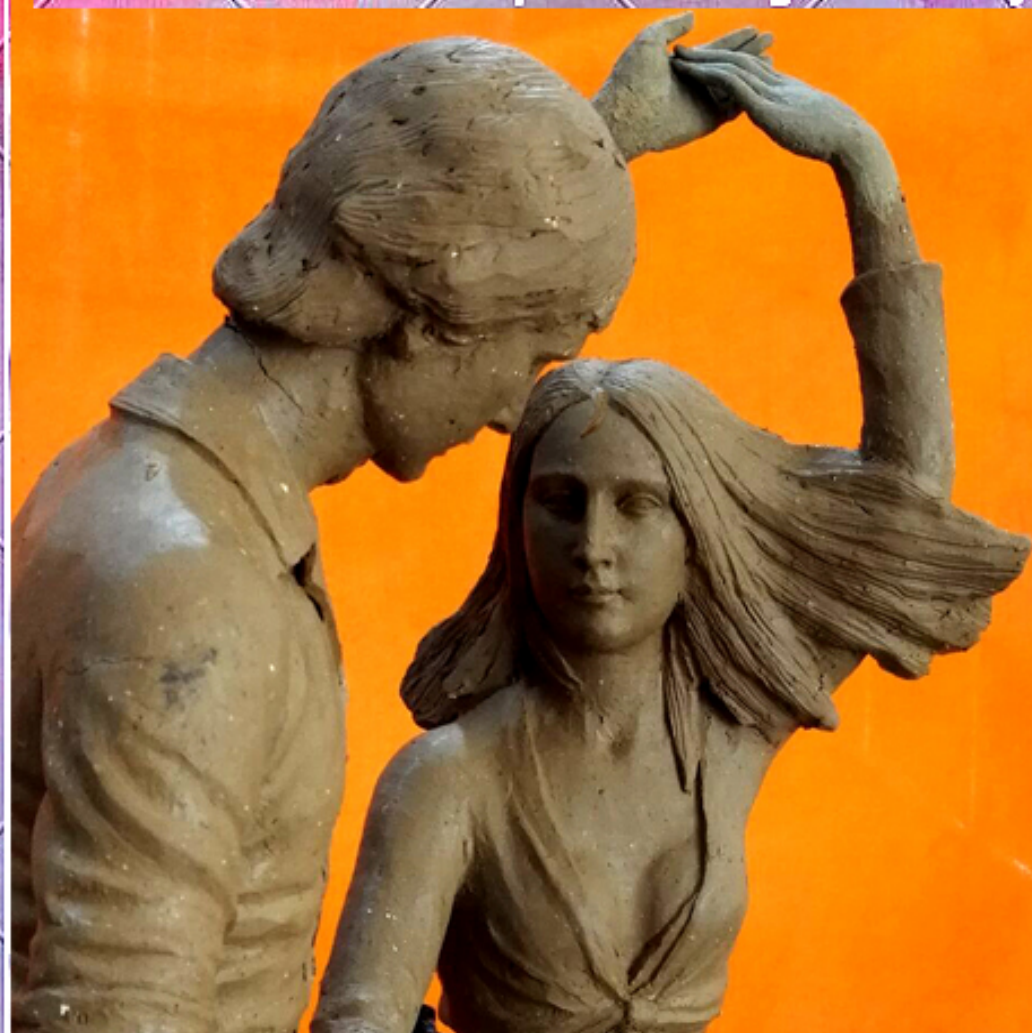


Here's to Life

The Creation of Lasting Beauty



The Story of The Making of
The Bronze Sculpture
"Here's to Life"

EDDY ADRIAENS

The making of

"Here's to Life"

The Bronze Sculpture
of a Dancing Young Couple

Designed by Eddy Adriaens

The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The origin of the project

I am Eddy Adriaens, married to Arlette Scheerlinck and proud parent of Tamara Adriaens.

Arlette and I married in 1975. Very soon we will be sharing the good and the more difficult days for 50 years.

At some time last year, I had the idea of erecting our personal Thaj Mahal as a lasting memory of our love and life experience. Since I am a lover of bronze sculptures, my preference went out to creating a bronze statue.

Arlette is a very beautiful woman and one of the characteristics that are most idiosyncratic about her, is the way how she changes when she dances.



Something feline then comes over her. She moves more gracefully, more slowly also, and becomes thus focused on the dance that she becomes enraptured, almost ecstatic, one with the music and the movement.

Arlette dancing ... alright. But somehow the idea of creating a sculpture of ONLY Arlette dancing didn't feel completely well. After all, what I wanted to express in the first place, was not her beauty and gracefulness, nor her love for dancing. The sculpture had to bear testimony of our love and show the bond between the two of us.

Hence, I needed to become involved. At this point things became suddenly clear: I wanted to create a sculpture of the both of us dancing together and showing our love, our bond and affection through the dance.

As soon as I knew what I wanted, I started surfing the web in search of examples of existing sculptures that could serve as a source of inspiration





The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The inspiration for the sculpture

I found lots of dance-moves and positions that are inspiring. I read passion in them and skill, teaming, desire, respect, joy, ... all the positive emotions that I was looking for. But did I see Arlette in them ? Did I recognize myself and the feelings I shared with Arlette ? Glimpses, yes, most certainly. One element here and another there. But Arlette and I were no professional ballroom dancers and the drama of the latin dances might well highlight the passion of the dance very well. In the end, whatever all these pictures represented, it wasn't us.



The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

There was however one sculpture that touched me more than others and in which I read more of the emotions that I could personalize with.

The sculpture was an art deco bronze, made by a French sculptor, Jean Didier Début, in the 19th century. It represented a couple dancing a folk dance at the yearly harvest feast : "La Moisson" (The harvest Dance).

Jean Didier Debut/ France 1824 - 1893

Didier Debut is a French sculptor born in Moulins, France on June 4, 1824 and died in his Parisian residence at the Quai de Bethune, at age 68, on April 5, 1893.

Student of David d'Angers, he started at the Salon des Artistes Français in 1848 and won the second prize in Rome in 1851.

His son, Marcel Debut (1865-1933) is also an artist known both in the fields of painting and sculpture.

His works

- Bust of Raphael: at the museum of Moulins, gift of his son Marcel.
- Bas-relief "The Greeks and the Trojans fight over the body of Patroclus" with which he won the Prix de Rome and which he offered to the museum of "his hometown".
- Funeral monument of Dr. Palmier at the Montmartre Cemetery: stone bust (h 0.58 m) erected by his parents and friends (19th division).
- Young bouvier sounding the trunk: plaster presented at the Salon of 1875; was kept at the Museum of Angers before his disappearance.
- Vercingetorix or Gallic: plaster statuette of a Gaul, presented at the Salon of 1888, bronze replica with brown patina; it is kept in the Bordeaux Museum of Fine Arts.
- Statues of the Paris City Hall:
- Statue of Charles Rollin: facade on the Place de l'Hotel de Ville, corner pavilion right side on the first floor
- Statue of François de La Rochefoucauld: frontage on the quay, pavilion on the right, second floor.
- Passion of D. Debut at the Opéra Garnier
- Caryatids of the Commercial Court of Paris: the eight caryatids that support the coffered cupola of the dome are works of Didier Debut.
- Decorative statues for the Opera Garnier, amongst which "The Passion".
- Small bronzes: D. Debut has produced many small bronzes that are traded on the art market

sources

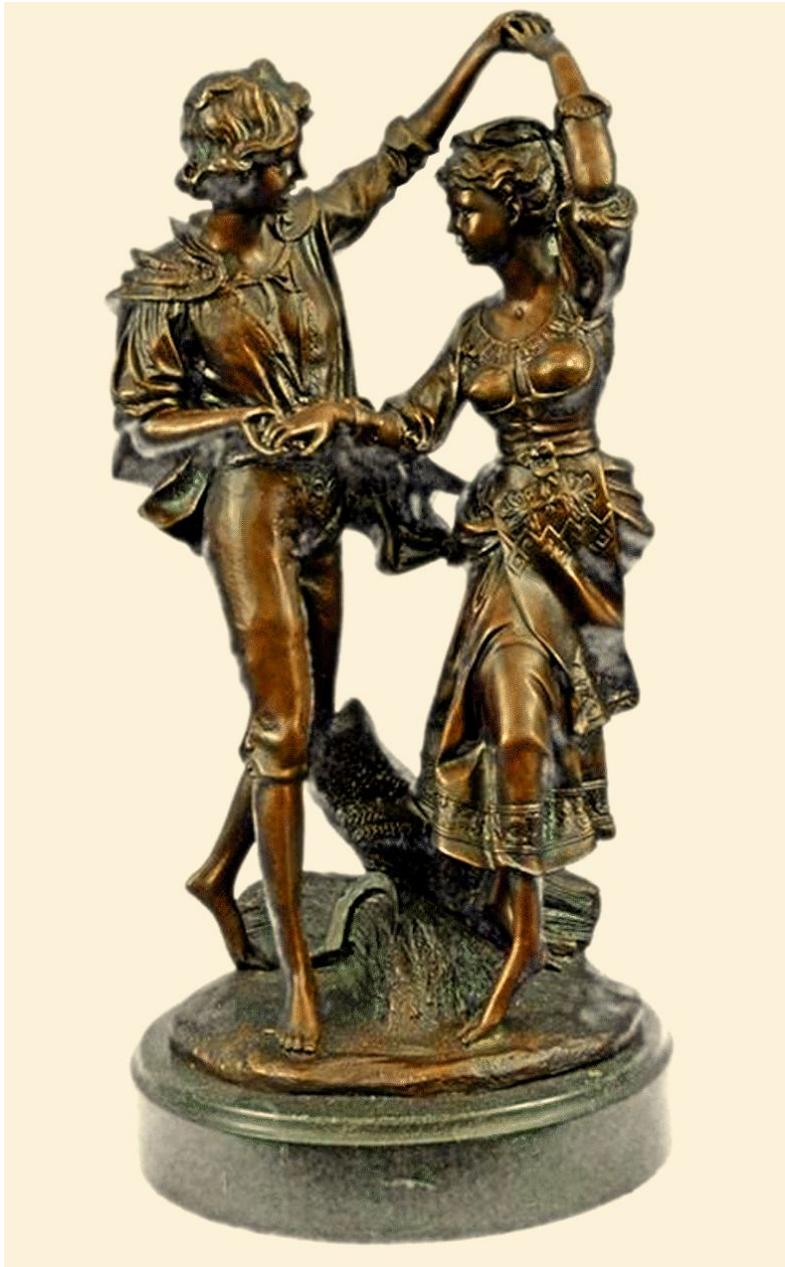
- Emile Bellier de La Chavignerie, General Dictionary of French School Artists, from the beginning of the drawing arts until 1882 inclusive: painters, sculptors, architects, engravers and lithographers.
- Georges Veyrat, The Statues of the City Hall of Paris (1892 edition)
- https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didier_Début

Jean Didier Début : Sculpture of "La Moisson" (The Harvest Dance)



Meet Miguel Fernando Lopez, Alias : MILO

I discovered that modern replica of the sculpture, sometimes signed "Didier Début", but often signed "Milo" were cast and distributed by (mostly) Chinese companies. The modern sculpture showed the same couple in the same pose, but the dancers looked younger, slimmer and somehow more beautiful than Début's.



I decided to buy a copy of the sculpture and soon was happy to see my conviction confirmed: I loved the sculpture. If one sculpture combined the different elements that were required to make it useful as a model for what I had in mind, then it was this one!

Milo, Miguel Fernando Lopez, born on June 12 1955 in Lisbon, is a Portuguese artist.

His father was working as an antique dealer, so Miguel got in touch with different kinds of art at an early time in his life and developed a passion for sculpting.

He always wanted to become a professional military in the Portuguese army, but changed his mind after he fell in love with a girl in Lisbon shortly before graduating. Milo decided to stay in Lisbon because of this girlfriend. and started studying arts and sculpting. Later, he also studied a year abroad in Rome and in Venice. Back in Lisbon,

Milo sold his first sculptures to a German entrepreneur, who was very enthusiastic. Soon, he started working as a close partner of the foundry of this first client and as a freelance artist. Milo is best known for his animal sculptures, modern art and nude figures.

Milo married Isabel. At this time, 2018, the couple lives in Lisbon. They have three children, all boys.

Milo's version of "La Moisson" (The Harvest Dance)





The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The inspiration for the design

Both sculptures are so much alike that, though "Milo's" has a more modern look, and seems to represent younger people, still the people shown in the sculpture are 19th century peasants wearing 19th century clothes and dancing a harvest dance.

For the creation of my sculpture, I needed to

- Get rid of the references to the harvest feast (sickle and corn)
- Replace the 19th century clothes by contemporary clothes
- If possible: make the girl more look like Arlette and the boy more like me.
- Add motion

I resumed my internet quest, in search this time of people in similar poses, but physically more resembling the both of us and dressed in clothes we would be able identify with.

Meanwhile, I had decided that I would take elements from a variety of photos and combine them into one picture, which would serve as the basic design for the creation of my own bronze sculpture. The process would be a lot like taking pieces of multiple jigsaw puzzles and in a later stage use them to create one new jigsaw puzzle.

The most important part of my sculpture, was to find the right model for Arlette. I had of course lots of photos of Arlette. Regretfully, I had almost no photos of Arlette dancing and certainly not one that I could use as a basis for my sculpture.

So, I put aside a number of photos of Arlette's face and then went in search of a body to compete it with.

I didn't find "the body" on the internet. While searching,, I remembered an evening in Aalst, when the wife of a friend of my brother, Nalva, or more correctly : Ednalva Silva Torres, gave a demonstration of some dances.

At the time, I had been struck by the way also Nalva changed the very moment that she started dancing.

I knew I had kept some photos of the evening and looked for them immediately. Between them, I found one that I immediately knew to be perfect as a basis for the sculpture:



The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The making of the design

For the creation of the design, I used photoshop. Starting with the Milo version of La Moisson, I replaced the various elements that, together, changed the original sculpture into the image that I had in mind:

The girl was replaced by Nalva, whose position had to be slightly adapted in order to fit in. Especially the position of the arms was crucial. Next, Nalva's head was cruelly severed and replaced by Arlette's

The boy's head was replaced by an old picture of mine and his 19th century clothes in different phases by contemporary clothes.

After a few evenings of cutting and pasting, I had my design ready.

Because I started with the generation of my design from an existing sculpture, I could easily find or take pictures from all angles of the sculpture. Being able to provide a 360° view design certainly was a big advantage.







The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The making of the sculpture

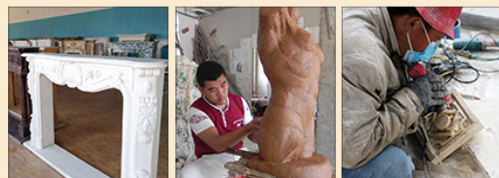


The Creation of Exceptional and Lasting Beauty

My search for a foundry that accepted commissions for sculpting and casting personal artworks, lead me to China, where I introduced my concept to Ms Iris Guo from the Zhengzhou You Fine Art Co.

Zhengzhou You Fine Art Co., Ltd.

❖ **OUR ADVANTAGES** ❖



YOU FINE ART CO., LTD.

We are direct manufacturer, having enough stocks, also very welcome the customized size. We have specialized in the area more than 30 years, owning advanced equipment and skilled sculptors.

Together we discussed all aspects related to the creation of the final artwork: how tall should it be ? What quality of bronze should be used? What colour did I want for the sculpture? How many copies did I want?



Even before I had worked out the final details, we had already agreed on all important features of the new piece of art.

	Item No.	NO.1 Brozne Couple Statue
	Size	Height:80cm* Length:45cm* Wide:40cm
	Quantity	1 set(including man and woman)
	Weight	55kg
	Model Price	USD\$ /set
	Factory Price For the Sculpture	USD\$ /set
	Material	Bronze

The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The making of the sculpture

LOST-WAX CASTING PROCESS



01 Clay Mold



02 Silicon Rubber Mould



03 Wax Mold Chasing



04 Shell Making



05 Casting



06 Shell Removing



07 Welding & Chasing



08 Patina



09 Finished

The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

1. Production of the Clay Model

The "Here's to Life" Bronze Sculpture of a Young Modern Dancing Couple is cast in first quality bronze containing 90% of copper and 0.5 cm thick, using the lost wax method.

Based on my design, master sculptors of You Fine Art Sculptures Ltd created a full-sized clay model of the sculpture. Ms Iris sent me photos of the progress of the work. Refinements and small changes were applied based on my suggestions, until finally the mould was completed.



And thus I watched how the miracle took place and an idea that I had expressed in a two dimensional visual design, now was turned into a three dimensional clay statue by the experienced master sculptors of the You Fine Art Company.

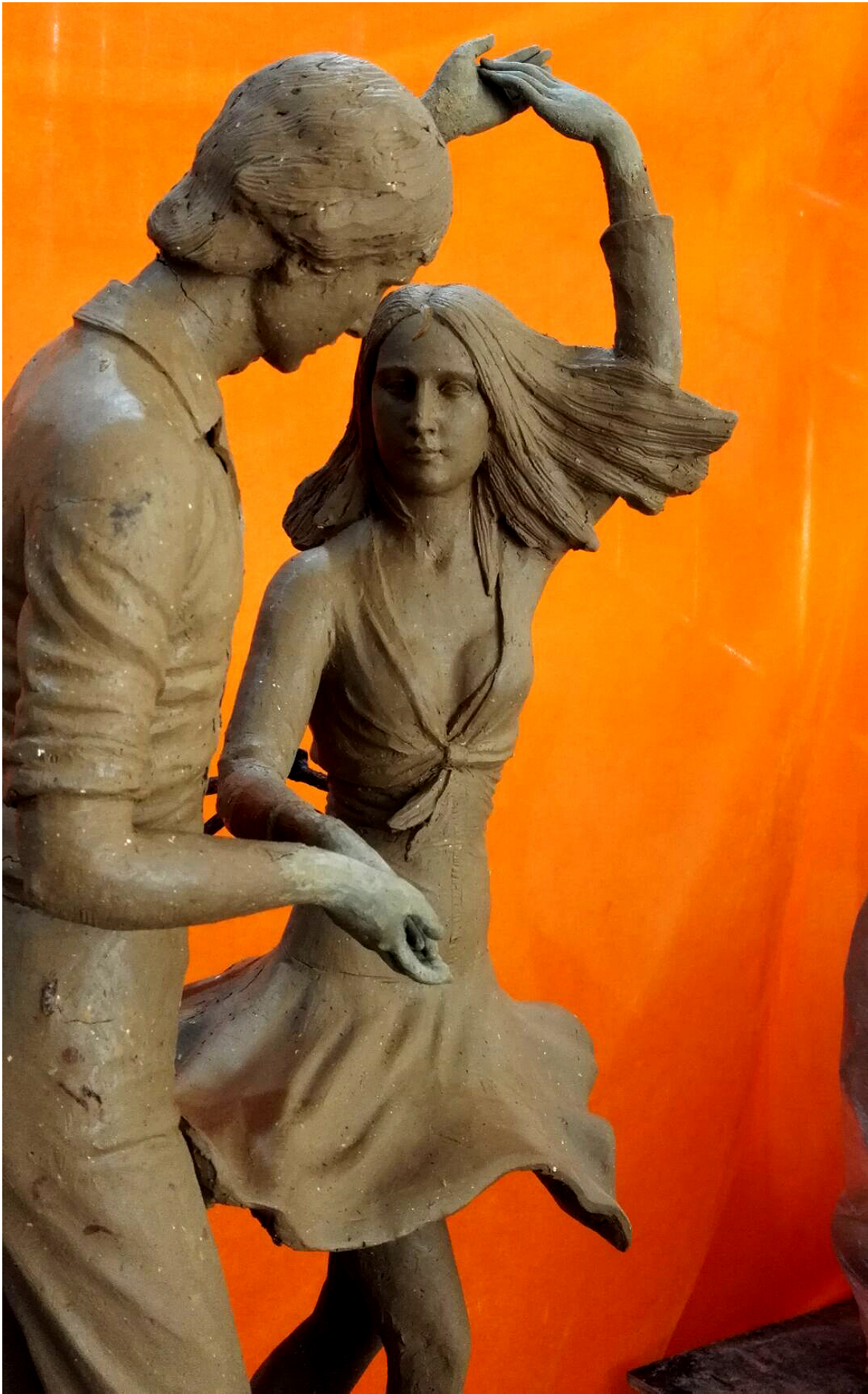
Did the girl look enough like Arlette? Did the boy resemble me enough? Did the general look of the work respect the memories and emotions that I had started from ?

I for one, felt very satisfied with the final result.

What follows are a couple of photos of the (nearly) finished clay model, that will allow you to judge for yourself :









The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The making of the sculpture

After the final clay model I had been approved, a positive plaster master was made for further refinement and used for the bronze casting.



First a production mould was obtained and a wax copy cast from the mould.

Next, a core was cast into the void, and retained in its proper location (after wax melting) by pins of the same metal used for casting.

Several wax sprues were added to conduct the molten metal into the sculpture, directing the liquid metal from a pouring cup to the bottom of the sculpture, which was then filled from the bottom up in order to avoid splashing and turbulence.

The complete wax structure and the core, were then invested in

another kind of mould or shell, which was heated in a kiln until the wax ran out and all free moisture was removed.

At this point, the investment filled with molten bronze, with the removal of all wax and moisture preventing the liquid metal from being explosively ejected from the mould by steam and vapour.

After the metal had cooled, the external clay was chipped away, revealing an image of the wax form, including core pins, sprues, vents, and risers. All of these are removed with a saw and tool marks were carefully polished away.

Finally, interior core material was removed to reduce the likelihood of interior corrosion.

After a final refinement by hand, during which eventual incomplete voids created by gas pockets or investment inclusions were corrected by welding and carving, and small defects were filed or ground down and polished, the sculpture was treated with chemical acids in order to obtain its finished surface and final colouring.



The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

The making of the sculpture

2. Production of the Wax Model



The next step in the production process is a rather shocking one: the clay model is dissected.

In order to prepare the original clay sculpture for molding, it is dissected by cutting the clay with wire and by cutting the armature with a saw. The armature is what helped support the clay in place while the artist was creating it.

Now the various parts of the original are carefully mounted on clay plugs before the rubber mold material is applied. The clay plug later serves as a pour spout for the mold.

Next, latex rubber is painted onto the original together with the clay plus that's been added in layers.

A lock and tab system has been applied so that the mold will be able to be opened and closed securely. Once the

rubber mold has been completed, a plaster or fiberglass "mother" mold is applied to the outside which will preserve the integrity of the rubber mold.

The "mother" mold is now complete, the next step is to separate the two halves of the mold and remove the original from inside.

The next step is to remove the artists' original and reassemble the clean, empty mold. Now a wax pattern will be poured by building several layers of the hot wax within the rubber mold. A layer is poured, allowed to dry until there is about a 1/4 inch thick wax pattern made of the artists' original. It is very important to note that the wax pattern is a hollow duplicate of the artists' original.

Now the wax pattern is taken to the wax "chasing" room of the foundry. Here much time is dedicated to the restoration of the wax pattern to the exact likeness of the artist original. All bubbles and imperfections are "chased" away in this process.





The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

4. The cast sculpture after welding, chasing and polishing

Some Pictures of the assembled and polished sculpture, right before the chemical colouring





The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

5. Finally, the sculpture had to be coloured

Amongst the different procedures to colour a bronze sculpture, the chemical colouring is the most qualitative, beautiful and lasting.



Old bronze sculptures were treated with a chemical acid that gave them their typical brown, green, blue or black patina. Nowadays, a variety of acids can be applied to one single sculpture. So I selected a darker tanina for hair and shoes, a blueish tanina for the clothes and a brighter tanina for the skin parts.

The model I had in mind was something like Fine Art Cy's reproduction of Moureau's L'Aveu, which you see at the left, but with the clothes blueish instead of greenish.

Once coloured, the sculpture is ready for a final cleaning and waxing, after which it would be shipped to our address.

Thanks to the beautiful images Iris sent, I had been able to monitor the creation of the sculpture and even had had the opportunity to influence the final result.

By now, I had a pretty good idea of what I would receive. What I had not noticed in time to make changes, was the way Arlette's hair was created. I knew the sculpture would not look 100% as what I had in mind when I started the project. But I had never expected it to be. All with all, based on what I had seen on screen and paper, I felt quite happy with the final product and looked forward now to receiving the real sculpture.





The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

If the delivery time agreed upon had been respected, I should have received the finished sculpture early 2018. Instead, work was halted for weeks due to the National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which took place in October 2017, then due to severe weather conditions, for another week at least due to the Chinese New Year and almost immediately after that due to Environmental Controls and because the master sculptor had been "taken away" as a punishment for refusing to stop working during the control period.

On may 9th I finally received pictures from the finished sculpture:



I looked at the pictures and lay back in my seat.

I had known what the sculpture would look like, but not what the result would have been of the colouring. Was this the kind of colouring I had asked? How close was this to the model I had sent (see two pages earlier)? Was this acid colouring or had the bronze been painted? Was I satisfied with the result?

As is often the case when reality takes the place of the dreams that are at the start of its creation, the feeling was double.

At the down side: I honestly doubted that this result could have been obtained by acid colouring, which is by far the most lasting and qualitative way of colouring bronze. The vividness of the colours convinced me this was some kind of enameled colouring, definitely very different from anything I had seen on the bronze sculptures listed on the foundry's web pages and also very different from what I had ordered.

At the other side: this was special. breathtakingly different from anything I knew. Not perfect, yet special. Not what I had expected, yet beautiful in its own right. Nevertheless, the longer I watched the pictures, the more I became convinced this was not what I had ordered, not what I really wanted.

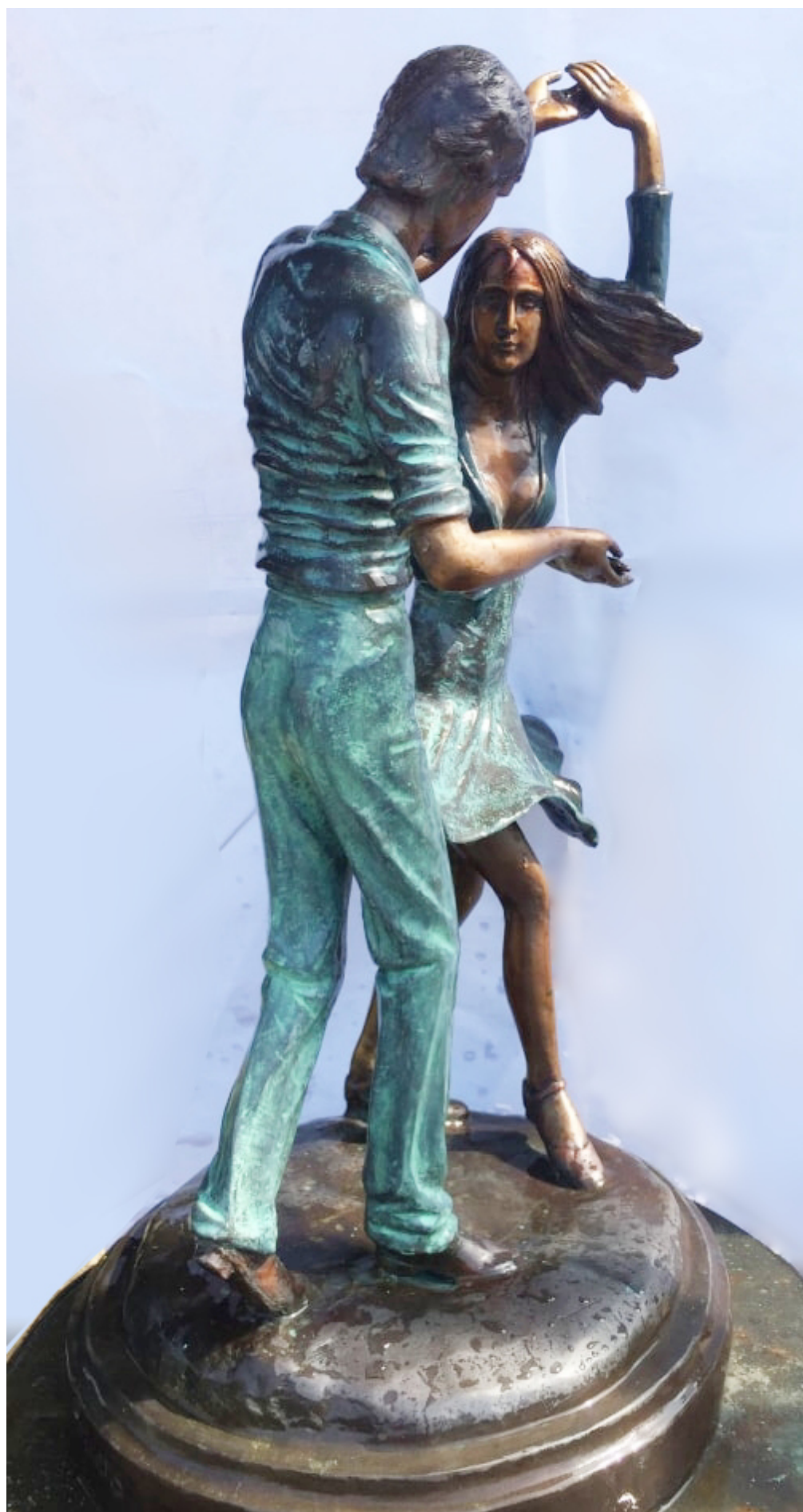












The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

An exclusive, unique Sculpture



Here's to Life
Eddy Adriaens

And so, bit by bit, the final copy of the unique, exclusive statue was created. The boy's trousers, which had to be darker than the shirt, in the final version suddenly were lighter, and the shirt darker. But for as far as judging the statue's appearance was possible, based on a couple of photos only, by end of June 2018 I saw the first images of my "materialized dream".

At last, the artwork cast in superb museum quality bronze at the You Fine Art Sculptures Foundry in China was ready to be shipped to Europe .



Here's to Life
Eddy Adriaens

The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

Here's to Life - The Song

Whilst searching for pictures on the internet, I also checked who else used "Here's to Life" as a name or title for their artistic creation.

I came across a song, that I want to share with you all:

Here's to Life

No complaints and no regrets.
I still believe in chasing dreams and placing bets.
But I have learned that all you give is all you get,
So give it all you got.
I had my share, I drank my fill, and even though I'm satisfied
I'm hungry still
To see what's down another road,
Beyond a hill and do it all again.
So here's to life and all the joy it brings.
Here's to life the dreamers and their dreams.

Funny how the time just flies.
How love can turn from warm hellos
To sad goodbyes
And leave you with the memories
You've memorized
To keep your winters warm.

There's no yes in yesterday.
And who knows what tomorrow brings
Or takes away.
As long as I'm still in the game
I want to play
For laughs, for life, for love.

So here's to life and all the joy it brings.
Here's to life, the dreamers and their dreams.
May all your storms be weathered,
And all that's good get better.

Here's to life, here's to love, here's to you.
May all your storms be weathered,
And all that's good get better.
Here's to life, here's to love, here's to you

Here's to Life

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Here's to Life

Studio album by Shirley Horn

Released 1992

Recorded September 1991

Genre Vocal jazz

Label Verve

Producer Johnny Mandel

Here's to Life is a 1992 studio album by Shirley Horn, arranged by Johnny Mandel (also the composer of three of the songs on the album), who received a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocal(s) on this album.

The title track "Here's to Life" became Horn's signature song. The music was written by Artie Butler and the poignant lyrics were written by Phyllis Molinary. The lyric is known, worldwide, as one of her finest works and the song is considered a "modern day jazz standard."

The song was covered by Barbra Streisand, Shirley Bassey, Loretta Holloway and many other famous singers.



The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

Here's to Life - The Song

And ultimately, because a circle is round, without beginning and without end, I discovered that one of my favourite songs, Gracias a la Vida from Violeta Parra, was selected as title for an album of one of my favourite singers, Joan Baez. And sweet Joan translated the title of the song as "Here's to Life" and used this title as the title of her album.

Gracias a la Vida

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Gracias a la Vida

Studio album by Joan Baez

Released April 1974

Recorded Early 1974

Genre Latin, folk

Label A&M

Producer Joan Baez, Henry Lewy

Gracias a la Vida (subtitled Joan Baez canta en español), or Here's to Life (Joan Baez sings in Spanish) is a 1974 studio album released by Joan Baez.

It was performed mainly in the Spanish language (just one song in Catalan language). Baez stated at the time that she released the album as a "message of hope to the Chileans suffering under Augusto Pinochet", in the wake of the death of Salvador Allende.

(Baez is known for her criticism of US foreign policy in Latin America, and has toured and worked on behalf of improving human rights in the region).

Songs include selections by Chilean composers Victor Jara (who was tortured and killed in the aftermath of the 1973 coup d'état) and Violeta Parra (photo), who composed the title song.



Gracias a la Vida

Violeta Parra

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me dio dos luceros, que cuando los abro
Perfecto distingo lo negro del blanco
Y en el alto cielo su fondo estrellado
Y en las multitudes el hombre que yo amo

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me ha dado el oído que en todo su ancho
Graba noche y día, grillos y canarios
Martillos, turbinas, ladridos, chubascos
Y la voz tan tierna de mi bien amado

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me ha dado el sonido y el abecedario;
Con él las palabras que pienso y declaro:
Madre, amigo, hermano, y luz alumbrando
La ruta del alma del que estoy amando

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me ha dado la marcha de mis pies cansados;
Con ellos anduve ciudades y charcos
Playas y desiertos, montañas y llanos
Y la casa tuya, tu calle y tu patio

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me dio el corazón que agita su marco
Cuando miro el fruto del cerebro humano
Cuando miro al bueno tan lejos del malo
Cuando miro al fondo de tus ojos claros

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto
Me ha dado la risa y me ha dado el llanto
Así yo distingo dicha de quebranto
Los dos materiales que forman mi canto
Y el canto de ustedes que es mi mismo canto
Y el canto de todos que es mi propio canto
Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto

Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto

Gracias a la vida

Gracias a la vida

Gracias a la vida

Here's to life

Violeta Parra

Here's to life, which has given me so much.
It gave me two eyes, that when I open them,
Perfectly distinguish black from white
And in the sky above, the starry backdrop,
And in the crowds, the man I love.

Here's to life, which has given me so much.
It gave me hearing, that, in all its width
Records — night and day— crickets and
canaries,
Hammers, turbines, barks, squalls,
And the tender voice of my beloved.

Here's to life, which has given me so much.
It gave me sound and the alphabet.
With them the words that I think and declare:
"Mother," "Friend," "Brother" and which is the
light shining the soul route of the one I love.

Here's to life, which has given me so much.
It gave me the ability to walk with my tired feet.
With them I walked cities and puddles,
Beaches and deserts, mountains and plains.
And your house, your street and your yard.

Here's to life, which has given me so much.
It gave me a heart, that causes my body to
tremble,
When I look at the fruit of the human brain,
When I look at the good, so far from the bad,
When I look deep inside your clear eyes...

Here's to life, which has given me so much.
It gave me laughter and it gave me tears,
With which I distinguish happiness from pain,
The two materials that make up my my songs,
And your song, which is the same song.
And everyone's song, which is my own song.

Here's to life, which has given me so much.

Here's to life

Here's to life

Here's to life

The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

Here's to Life - The Circle is Round

You may have wondered why I was so happy when I discovered "Here's to Life" was used by Joan Baez as a translation of "Gracias a la Vida", and why I feel that, with this "discovery" the circle is round.

Well, you should know that Arlette and I owe so much to a third person, without whom the love and life I am sharing with Arlette, would never have found it's fullest expression. In fact, I realize now that there is a person missing in the sculpture, that the statue shouldn't only show Arlette and me dancing, but that it should show three people : Arlette, me and our beautiful daughter Tamara.



Here's to Life
For Always





The Making of the "Here's To Life" Exclusive Bronze Sculpture of a Modern Dancing Couple

Love and Commitment immortalized forever in plum quality bronze





